

## **Decision Record**

### **Environmental Assessment (EA) for Grazing Authorization, DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-120-EA**

**Decision:** It is my decision to authorize the Proposed Action as described in **DOI-BLM-NM-P010-2013-120-EA**. The proposed action will authorize a grazing permit for 247 Animal Units at 58% Federal Range for 1719 Animal Unit Months (AUM's) active use. The mitigation measures identified in the attached EA have been formulated into terms and conditions that will be attached to the grazing permit. This decision incorporates, by reference, those conditions identified in the attached Environmental Assessment. A summary table follows:

Table 1. Proposed Action

<b>Use Type</b>	<b>Animal Units</b>	<b>From/To</b>	<b>% Public Range</b>	<b>Animal Unit Months</b>
Permitted Use	247 AUs	03/01 to 02/28	58% PL	1719 AUMs Active
Suspended Use	469 AUs	03/01 to 02/28	58% PL	3264 AUMs Suspended

Under the proposed action a new term grazing permit will be issued with grazing suspended in the pastures identified as lesser prairie-chicken (LPC) habitat (Crump, Northeast, Southeast [SE] Culp, South Culp, Rund, Pipeline and South Malmstrom). The animal units (AUs) associated with these pastures would be placed in suspension. Suspended AU's may be reinstated after habitat conditions improve and the allotment meets standards of Rangeland Health.

Authorized active use on Culp Ranch, Allotment 65053 will be set at 247 AUs/1719 AUMs at 58% public land to be rotated in the remaining pastures (Horse, Culp Trap, Little Adams, Bull, Big Adams, Malmstrom Trap, Shinnery and West Malmstrom) yearlong and 303 AUs/2108 AUMs will be placed in suspension. In addition, the current 166 AUs/1155 AUMS which are in Long term Temporary Non-Use (per Agreement dated 2-28-2008) will also be placed into Suspended Use for a total of 469 AUs/3264 AUMs in Suspension.

Rationale: Based on the rangeland health assessment (RHA) and previous monitoring, resource conditions on this allotment are sufficient and sustainable to support the level of use outlined in the ten year grazing permit.

**Public Involvement:**

The Public review and comment period ended on August 12, 2013. Comments that were in support of or non-support of particular aspects of the EA were not considered further unless justification associated with the analysis or rationale was included. Comments seeking corrections or edits were further analyzed and will be reflected in plan documents.

If you wish to protest this proposed decision in accordance with 43 CFR 4160.2, you are allowed 15 days to do so in person or in writing to the authorized officer, after the receipt of this decision. Please be specific in your points of protest.

The protest shall be filed with the Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 2909 West 2<sup>nd</sup>, Roswell, NM 88201. This protest should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the proposed action is in error.

In the absence of a protest within the time allowed, the above decision shall constitute my final decision. Should this notice become the final decision, you are allowed an additional 30 days within which to file an appeal for the purpose of a hearing before the Interior Board of Land Appeals, and to petition for stay of the decision pending final determination on the appeal (43 CFR 4.21 and 4.410). If a petition for stay is not requested and granted, the decision will be put in to effect following the 30-day appeal period. The appeal and petition for stay should be filed with the Field Manager at the above address. The appeal should specify, clearly and concisely, why you think the decision is in error. The petition for stay should specify how you will be harmed if the stay is not granted.

/s/ Jerry Dutchover.  
Jerry Dutchover  
Assistant Field Manager, Resources

09/10/13.  
Date